

# The Daily Charge

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"Telling the MND-Baghdad Story"

Friday, Nov. 24, 2006



(Photo by Pfc. William Hatton, 7th MPAD)

## ...support and defend the Constitution...

The Honorable Francis J. Harvey (left), Secretary of the Army, watches as Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr., commanding general of the 1st Cav. Div. and Multi-National Division - Baghdad, reads the oath of enlistment to Sgt. Michael Garrett, 7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Division Special Troops Battalion, and two other Soldiers during a reenlistment ceremony inside the MND-B headquarters Nov. 23 at Camp Liberty, Iraq.

## Soldiers find Turkey, family in Baghdad

By Spc. L.B. Edgar,  
7th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - This wasn't Grandma's house, but the table was full of people. They came from over the river and through woods, did route clearing, stood guard and made it in for a traditional meal.

Yet, something is missing at this year's Thanksgiving Day feast. The meal is complete, but unfortunately the families of

many Soldiers are absent from the annual festivities.

Far from home, Soldiers of the Multi-National Division-Baghdad spent Thanksgiving with each other, rather than their families.

For some Soldiers this is not a new experience. Sgt. John Eldridge, 372nd Military Police Battalion, 89th MP Brigade, is deployed for a second time and will miss sharing a turkey with his family

again, he said.

This year for Turkey Day, the light-wheel mechanic took a break from inventorying the motor pool, to partake in a Thanksgiving Day feast with fellow Soldiers.

"(It's) not so bad," the 25-year-old said. "You get kind of used to it. It's like

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# A 'Cavtastic' Turkey Day in Baghdad

**By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen**  
1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs

*"My girl don't like my cowboy hat; She told me it looks silly .*

*My girl don't like my cowboy hat; She looked and said, 'Now, really ...*

*Do you have to wear that thing when we go off to dinner?'*

*I said, 'My dear some of your outfits are not exactly winners.'"*

Telling a First Team trooper he can't wear a Stetson is like tugging on Superman's cape, spitting into the wind, pulling the mask off the ol' Lone Ranger or messing around with Jim. Up to now, Camp Liberty, at least, has been a Stetson-free zone.

Until yesterday, that is.

Thanksgiving Day marked the first Stetson sighting outside the 1st Cavalry Division's Multi-National Division - Baghdad headquarters, though our troopers had to walk to the dining facility with their

hats in hand, donning them once inside.

OK, now that we've established that I'm a Hank, Junior and Jim Croce fan and a member of the First Team, I must say how refreshing it was to see our leaders break out their "cowboy hats" for the traditional holiday meal served in our dining facilities.

Traditions are important. Thanksgiving Day dinner is a tradition for Americans across the land. Our traditions set us apart, mold us, shape us and give us our identity. The Stetsons on our heads and the gold spurs we'll win in combat do that same for our division troopers.

The First Team, rightfully so, has been considered a bit, well ... Hollywood. With Robert Duval and Mel Gibson leading us into battle on the silver screen, who wouldn't be? Even so, the spirit of the Cavalry is tied to our history, our traditions and the Army's largest patch we wear on our shoulder.

Big patch?

Larger than life?

Swagger?

You betcha!

In a combat zone, attitude is everything. Confident commitment is far better than complacency. Anything that raises morale and bonds us to courageous comrades of years gone by can only be viewed as a force multiplier.

That's why so many of us give up valuable packing space to bring Stetsons over the water into a combat zone in the first place. (Mine is on the masthead. Hooah!)

All in all, Thanksgiving Day in Baghdad was a rousing success in my book. We got a traditional meal and re-enforced traditions of our own as we 'Live the Legend' here in Iraq.

*"My girl don't like my cowboy hat; She told me it looks tacky.*

*My girl don't like my cowboy hat; I told her to get packing.*

*I found someone who always wears a 'cow-person hat, too.*

*Why, the only time we take our's off is when we want to ...kiss."*

- Hank Williams, Jr.

## Arabic Phrase of the Day

sh-tushtughul

**Defined:**  
**What kind of  
work do you do?**

## Iraq 3-Day Forecast



Today

High: 70  
Low: 46



Tomorrow

High: 68  
Low: 48



Sunday

High: 66  
Low: 46

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# Same patch, football brings father and son closer

By Spc. L.B. Edgar,  
7th MPAD

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq - While a father wears the 1st Cavalry Division combat patch in Iraq, on game day, half a world away, his son sports the same patch on the gridiron.

Capt. Frank Williams Jr., trial counsel, 1169th Engineer Group, has seen every one of his son's games until this season, he said.

That's because in July he mobilized for deployment to Iraq, just after his son left to attend the U.S. Military Academy on a football scholarship.

For Williams it was his first time deploying and for his son it was his first time away from home.

Now a plebe (Freshman) at West Point, Carson Riley Williams is the starting quarterback for the Black Knights.

Even though Williams has missed most of his son's games this season, he still takes comfort knowing that Carson wears the same patch for games as he puts on

every morning .

"We were shocked when they (West Point) placed the 1st Cavalry patch on his chest. Both of us thought it was ironic we'd both be wearing the same patch," Williams



(Photo by Spc. L.B. Edgar, 7th MPAD)

**Capt. Frank Williams Jr., trial counsel, 1169th Engineer Group, reads a story about his son, Carson Riley Williams, starting quarterback for the Army Black Knights.**

said. "He and I both liked the idea. It's like the icing on the cake. I think he wears it very proudly knowing I wear it over here too."

Before the season Williams did not think his son would even play as a freshman.

"When he got to West Point he was fifth on the depth chart. One player got injured and he worked his way up to the backup position." Then during the Texas Christian University game, Carson was called on to the field, Williams said. "We're just small time country boys. I was proud and shocked."

Instead of seeing his son's games he now has a weekly phone call, which keeps the father and son close.

"We don't have a lot of time to talk on the phone. I just try to get him ready for the next game. I talk to him once a week and give him a little advice," Williams said.

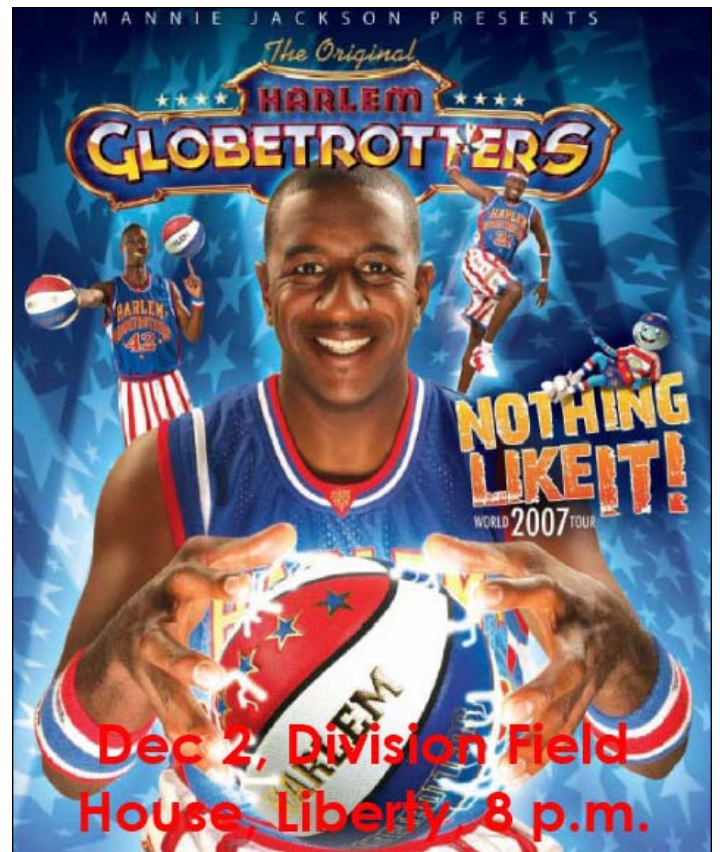
Despite the distance between father and son, they both take consolation in being able to wear the same patch on game day.



(Photo by Spc. Jeffery Alexander, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div.)

## Taking no chances

Spc. Matthew Picchietti, an infantryman from Company A, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, searches a vehicle prior to a medical operation in Sheik Hamid Village, north of Baghdad, Nov. 21.





# Not Grandma's, troops still among family

## Turkey

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having your family here with you."

Though Eldridge won't be dining on his grandmother's cornbread stuffing and watching Dallas and Detroit do battle, he said he was still able to chow down on his favorite Thanksgiving Day dish - macaroni and cheese, and catch some gridiron action later in the evening.

This year's Thanksgiving is bitter-sweet for the native of Washington, D.C., because

after nearly one year deployed, he said he's headed home just in time for Christmas.

"It feels good because we'll make it home for Christmas to see our families," said the father of two. "This is our last celebration in Iraq. I'm thankful I made it through another year in Iraq."

For other Soldiers the experience of being deployed for the holidays is a foreign concept.

Pfc. Davina Medina, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, would rather be home

with her son than fighting in the Global War on Terrorism this Thanksgiving.

However, the intelligence analyst said she would settle for the next best thing, a telephone call home to talk to her son, who sleeps while his mother ate turkey and stuffing half-a-world away.

On a normal Thanksgiving, the native of Azusa, Calif., could be found cooking, eating and sleeping all day.

But this year, she is serving in her chosen profession as a Soldier.

Though the 18-month

Army veteran will miss her favorite dish, Ecuadorian stuffing, compliments of her grandfather, she said there is a positive side to deploying for Thanksgiving.

"You don't have to cook or clean up," she said. Medina said she takes comfort knowing her family is comfortable at home.

Even though Soldier's sacrifice by missing holidays with their loved ones, they don't spend the holidays alone.

This year, Soldiers on Camp Liberty are spending Thanksgiving Day as a military family.



(Photo by Pfc. William Hatton, 7th MPAD)

Lt. Col. Thomas Bischof (right) and Maj. Jeffery Pearce, from the Multi National Division-Baghdad Provost Marshal's Office, serve Soldiers on Thanksgiving Day at Camp Liberty, Iraq Nov. 23. Senior officers and noncommissioned officers traditionally serve Thanksgiving dinner to their troops in gratitude for their service.

# Thanksgiving Day doesn't mean patrols stop

By Staff Sgt. Mary Rose  
7th MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - All across the United States families are sitting down at their dinner tables with a spread of cranberry sauce, green bean casserole and golden turkey. In Iraq, another family, the brothers and sisters of the 1st Cavalry Division, patrol the streets of Baghdad protecting what so many Americans are thankful for - freedom.

A squad from the Mortar Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment, fired up their up-armored humvees and suited up in their protective gear, which covered them from head to toe, in the early hours of Thanksgiving Day to embark on a patrol throughout their newly assigned sectors in Baghdad.

"Our mission was to get familiar with the new area we are taking over and get familiar

with our routes, specific buildings and certain spots that are crucial to our mission," said Sgt. Jason Smail, a native of Altoona, Pa. "We also linked up with our counter-parts the Iraqi police and Iraqi soldiers."

The squad established communication with Iraqi police and army units they will be working with side-by-side throughout the upcoming year.

By instituting communication and relationships with the platoons counterparts working their Baghdad sectors will be easier, Smail said.

Although, the squad spent much of their Thanksgiving Day patrolling the streets and building relationships some of them still had time to talk about the Thanksgiving feast that awaited them at the Riva Ridge Dining Facility on Camp Liberty, Iraq. Others like, Staff Sgt. Freddie Torres, a native of Gloucester, Mass., commented on how he forgot about Thanksgiving.

"I've been focused on the mission and taking care of my guys more than the holidays. I lose track of the time and the day here," Torres said. "I'm happy it is Thanksgiving and I'm going to eat a lot, then call my wife," he added.

For Pfc. Jason Talbot, a gunner for the squad and a native of Chico, Calif., Thanksgiving is just another day for him.

It is pretty much like any other day in Iraq, he said. It's rough being away from my

family on Thanksgiving

He gave himself comfort by commenting on why he is patrolling the roads of Iraq during the holiday season. "I'm here to do a job and I believe in that job, so it makes it a good day," he said.

After the squad's day on the road, they made their way to the dining facility to fill up on turkey, prime rib, shrimp cocktail and just about everything their families in the U.S. passed around their tables this Thanksgiving.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Mary Rose, 7th MPAD)

Pfc. Jason Talbot, a gunner with, Mortar Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division and a native of Chico, Calif., prepares his turret in the early morning of Nov 23, Thanksgiving Day, in preparation for a day of patrols throughout Baghdad.

